

# RELIGIONFACTS




Just the facts on religion.

## Comparison of Islam, Judaism and Christianity




**Christianity, Islam, and Judaism** are three of the most influential world religions in history. While Judaism isn't as large as Christianity and Islam, its impact on the world has still been as profound. Judaism, Islam, and Christianity are sometimes called "**Abrahamic religions**" because they trace their history to Abraham in the Hebrew Bible.

What do these three religions believe about God, the universe, people, and the afterlife, and how do those convictions compare with each other? The charts below are intended to start answering those questions. As a brief guide of the **similarities** and **differences** of Islam, Judaism and Christianity, the following chart compares the statistics, origins, history and religious beliefs of these three great monotheistic faiths.




### Comparison of Statistics and Basics

	Islam 	Judaism 	Christianity 
<b>Adherents called</b>	Muslims	Jews	Christians
<b>Current adherents</b>	1.3 billion	14 million	2 billion
<b>Current size rank</b>	2nd largest	12th largest	largest
<b>Major concentration</b>	Middle East, Southeast Asia	Israel, Europe, USA	Europe, North and South America, rapid growth in Africa
<b>Sacred text</b>	Qur'an (Koran)	Bible	Bible (Jewish Bible + New Testament)
<b>Other written authority</b>	Hadith	Talmud, Midrash, Responsa	church fathers, church councils, papal decrees (Catholic only)
<b>Religious law</b>	Sharia	Halakhah	Canon Law
<b>Clergy</b>	imams	rabbis	priests, ministers, pastors, bishops
<b>House of worship</b>	mosque	synagogue	church, chapel, cathedral
<b>Main day of worship</b>	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Church and state</b>	integrated	separate	separate

## Comparison of Origins and History

	Islam 	Judaism 	Christianity 
<b>Date founded</b>	622 CE	unknown	c. 33 CE
<b>Place founded</b>	Saudi Arabia	Palestine	Palestine
<b>Founder</b>	Muhammad	Moses or Abraham	Jesus
<b>Original language(s)</b>	Arabic	Hebrew	Aramaic, Greek
<b>Early expansion</b>	within 12 years, entire Arabian peninsula; within 100 years, Muslim world stretched from the Atlantic to China	little expansion; mostly confined to Palestine	within 60 years, churches in major cities in Palestine, Turkey, Greece and Rome; entire Roman Empire by end of 4th century
<b>Major splits</b>	Shia/Sunni, c. 650 CE	Reform/Orthodox, 1800s CE	Catholic/Orthodox, 1054 CE; Catholic/Protestant, 1500s CE

## Comparison of Religious Beliefs

	Islam 	Judaism 	Christianity 
<b>Type of theism</b>	strict monotheism (one god)	strict monotheism (one god)	Trinitarian monotheism (one god, three expressions through Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
<b>Names of God</b>	Allah (Arabic for God)	Yahweh, Elohim	Yahweh, the Holy Trinity
<b>Other spiritual beings</b>	angels, demons, jinn	angels and demons	angels and demons
<b>Revered humans</b>	prophets, imams (especially in Shia)	prophets	saints, church fathers
<b>Identity of Jesus</b>	true prophet of God, whose message has been corrupted	false prophet	Son of God, God incarnate, savior of the world
<b>Birth of Jesus</b>	virgin birth	normal birth	virgin birth

<b>Death of Jesus</b>	did not die, but ascended into heaven during crucifixion	death by crucifixion	death by crucifixion
<b>Resurrection of Jesus</b>	denied	denied	affirmed
<b>Second Coming of Jesus</b>	affirmed	denied	affirmed
<b>Divine revelation</b>	through Muhammad, recorded in Qur'an	through Prophets, recorded in Bible	through Prophets and Jesus (as God Himself), recorded in Bible
<b>View of sacred text</b>	inspired, literal word of God, inerrant in original languages	views vary	inspired, some believe inerrant in original languages
<b>Human nature</b>	equal ability to do good or evil	two equal impulses, one good and one bad	"original sin" inherited from Adam - tendency towards evil
<b>Means of salvation</b>	correct belief, good deeds, Five Pillars	belief in God, good deeds	correct belief, faith, good deeds, sacraments (some Protestants emphasize faith alone)
<b>Good afterlife</b>	eternal paradise	views vary: either heaven or no afterlife	eternal heaven
<b>Bad afterlife</b>	eternal hell	views vary: either eternal Gehenna, reincarnation, or no afterlife	eternal hell, temporary purgatory (Catholicism)
<b>View of fellow Abrahamic religions</b>	Jews and Christians are respected as "People of the Book," but they have wrong beliefs and only partial revelation.	Islam and Christianity are false interpretations and extensions of Judaism.	Judaism is a true religion, but with incomplete revelation. Islam is a false religion.

[http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison\\_charts/islam\\_judaism\\_christianity.htm](http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison_charts/islam_judaism_christianity.htm)